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Finance Committee Minutes 09-10-2001

MINUTES OF MEETING
7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING
9/10/01

ATTENDEES:

	Feinleib*	Kocur	O'Neill*	Mahoney
DeCoursey*		Simmons*	Mazmanian*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan*	
	Franclemont*		Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Tosi*	Kneeland*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Chair Permanent Town Building Committee John Cole; Superintendent of Schools Kay Donovan, School Committee Members Joani LaMachia, MARTICLEy Thrope, Barbara Goodman, Assistant Superintendent for Business Dave Cale, Members Community Preservation Act Study Committee Clarissa Rowe (Chair), Chick Abbott, Marc Dohan, Don Vitters, Laura Wiener.

ARTICLE 2 LAND ACQUISITION/SYMMES HOSPITAL: Foskett reported that the Symmes Hospital property purchase negotiations are still ongoing. Several subcommittees of the Symmes Hospital Advisory Committee have been formed to address the wide variety of issues involved in this project. Details were summarized in a package provided to the FinCom before the meeting.

VOTED: No report at this time. Unanimous

ARTICLE 5 APPROPRIATION/TRANSFER OF FUNDS HARDY SCHOOL

PLAYGROUND: Cole requested that \$107k be transferred from the antenna fund to complete landscaping on the Hardy playground.

VOTED: Transfer \$107,000 from the antenna fund to the Hardy School project and the \$33000 balance be transferred into the capital budget for playground renovation. Unanimous

QUESTION: If this transfer is approved by the Special Town Meeting, which then adjourns for several months, can this money still be spent? Tosti to find a way.

SCHOOL RENOVATION: Donovan provided a status report on phase 3 of the school renovation project supported by several handouts. She described the "Brackett Standard" and stated that it is still the School Committee's policy to maintain this standard for all schools despite the \$10m cost inflation. She discussed renovation vs rebuilding Stratton. She believes that the cost difference is small. She listed various cost reduction measures being considered. She also discussed the enrollment which is about the same as last year, though there is a bulge in the elementary grades.

ARTICLE 3 ACCEPTANCE OF LEGISLATION/COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT:
Rowe introduced Abbott, Howard, and Dohan who discussed various aspects of the legislation. The Study Committee is not ready to make a specific recommendation, but plans to make a recommendation to the Regular Town Meeting in the Spring. The FinCom members asked a number of questions & provided some useful feedback to the Study Committee.

VOTED: No action. Unanimous.

BUDGET FORMAT: Foskett reviewed a printout of a improved budget format based directly on the MUNIS data base. He hopes it will be more accurate, more useful to the FinCom and less expensive to prepare. Comments from FinCom members are requested.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

Elections: The current officers were reelected unanimously: Chair Allan Tosti; Vice Chairs Richard C Fanning, Charles T Foskett, Abigail DuBois; Secretary Peter B Howard

Authority to approve transfers was granted by the committee unanimously to the Chair for amounts up to \$10k, and with the approval of the Vice Chairs up to \$25k until the next meeting.

The Association of Town Finance Committees annual meeting is Nov 3.

Peter B. Howard

Secretary